

Comment on “hi fi” SSB bandwidth issues:

If the FCC chooses to specify a bandwidth limit on SSB transmission, please consider the filter bandwidth of some of the classic equipment still in use today. The Collins KWS-1 has a 3.1 kHz SSB filter at –3 dB. The Hallicrafters HT-32 and HT-37 or Central Electronics 10B and 20A transmitters would have similar transmitted bandwidths.

It would seem that a spec of no more than 3.5 kHz at –3 dB would cover virtually all vintage equipment. It would also allow for a modestly enhanced signal for the small minority of hams experimenting with “hi fi” SSB. I believe the subject became a problem when a few hams started using bandwidths in excess of 6 kHz.

Of course a clean signal without splatter from improper operation of a linear amplifier is assumed in all cases. Enhanced fidelity is not a splatter issue, it is an occupied bandwidth issue.

A spec of 3.5 kHz would still be much less than a standard 6 kHz AM signal, or a DSB (double sideband) transmission, both of which are permissible. From a practical standpoint, the “hi fi” SSBers tend to spend much of their operating time on specific frequencies talking to themselves, thus the “problem” is not usually spread all over the band. Likewise AM groups tend to operate on specific frequencies, and do not cause a significant hardship to the crowded bands.

Sincerely yours,
Robert Sherwood
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Amateur Extra (20 wpm)
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